

House Bill 1114

By: Representative Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to poll officers, so as to provide for the Student Teen Election Participant  
3 program; to provide for related matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
8 relating to poll officers, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-92, relating to  
9 qualification of poll officers and service during municipal election or primary, as follows:  
10 "21-2-92.

11 (a) Poll officers appointed pursuant to Code Sections 21-2-90 and 21-2-91 shall be  
12 judicious, intelligent, and upright citizens of the United States, residents of the county in  
13 which they are appointed or, in the case of municipal elections, residents of the  
14 municipality in which the election is to be held or of the county in which that municipality  
15 is located, 16 years of age or over, and shall be able to read, write, and speak the English  
16 language. No poll officer shall be eligible for any nomination for public office or to be  
17 voted for at a primary or election at which the poll officer shall serve. No person who is  
18 otherwise holding public office, other than a political party office, shall be eligible to be  
19 appointed as or to serve as a poll officer. A parent, spouse, child, brother, sister,  
20 father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law  
21 of a candidate shall not be eligible to serve as a poll officer in any precinct in which such  
22 candidate's name appears on the ballot in any primary or election.

23 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section, in the event that  
24 a municipal primary or election is held in conjunction with a regular county, state, or  
25 federal election, poll officers assigned by the county election superintendent to conduct  
26 such county, state, or federal election shall also be authorized to serve as poll officers to

conduct such municipal election or primary and shall not be required to be residents of said municipality.

(c) Each local board of education and election superintendent shall be authorized to develop and implement through a coordinated effort a Student Teen Election Participant (STEP) program. The STEP program shall permit full-time public, private, and home schooled high school students to volunteer to work as poll officers during any primary, special, or general election day. In addition to the qualifications set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section, a student participating in the STEP program shall:

(1) Be a United States citizen;

(2) Have a Georgia driver's license or Georgia state issued identification card;

(3) Have demonstrated age-appropriate academic ability for the previous school year; and

(4) Have a history of responsible school and community behavior.

A student participating in the STEP program shall at all times while working at an election's poll remain under the supervision of an adult poll officer or manager who is 21 years of age or older. No student shall be permitted to participate in the STEP program without the written authorization of his or her parent or legal guardian and such other documentation as may be required by the local board of education or election superintendent. A student in the STEP program shall work a minimum of four but not more than six hours during a single election day and shall receive age-appropriate training for serving as a poll officer. A student who successfully participates in the STEP program shall be counted as present and given full credit for the school day during which he or she served in the STEP program. No student shall be permitted to be absent from school or participate in the STEP program for more than two school days. The election superintendent and local board of education shall adopt mutually agreed upon rules, regulations, and policies prior to the initiation of a STEP program."

## **SECTION 2.**

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

## **SECTION 3.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.